

ALTON URBAN DISTRICT.

COUNCIL OFFICES,
ALTON, HANTS:

1st August, 1947.

To

The Chairman and Members
ALTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Gentlemen,

I beg to submit the Annual Public Health Report for the Alton Urban District for the year 1946.

The Report is abridged in accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health.

The Health Services have been maintained throughout the year at a satisfactory level. Alton continues to remain healthy.

The Incidence of Infectious Diseases has been low and the Vital Statistical figures for the year under report compare very favourably with those of the Country as a whole.

The Post of Medical Officer of Health was held by Dr. R.J. Willson, who, on retirement, was succeeded by Dr. Helen Larcombe. Finally Medical Charge of the District was held by me from the 19th August to the end of the year.

My thanks are due to Mr. G.H. Webb, the Sanitary Inspector & Surveyor, for his most willing and valuable co-operation and for supplying me with much of the material necessary for this Report. I am also indebted to the entire Public Health Staff for the efficient manner in which they have carried out their duties.

Yours faithfully,

T.D. MURISON.

Lt. Col. F.M.S. (Retd.)

L.F.R.C.S. & P. (Edin.), L.R.F.S & P. (Glas),
D.P.H. (Wain.)

Medical Officer of Health
Alton Urban District.

PUBLIC HEALTH REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1946.

ALTON URBAN DISTRICT.

POPULATION 8,138.

NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES 2,100.

(1) BIRTHS :-

	Male.	Female.	Total.
(a) Live Births			
(i) Legitimate	83	54	137
(ii) Illegitimate	6	4	10.
			<u>147</u>
Rate per 1,000 Population		-	18.06
Rate per 1,000 Population, England & Wales		-	19.1
(b) Still Births.			
(i) Legitimate	1	4	5
(ii) Illegitimate	-	1	1
			<u>6.</u>
(c) Rate per 1,000 Total Births (Live & Still)			- 39.21
(d) Rate per 1,000 Legitimate Births			- 35.21
(e) Rate per 1,000 Illegitimate Births			- 90.90
(f) Rate per 1,000 Population			- .73
(g) Rate per 1,000 Population (England & Wales)			- .53

(11) DEATHS :-

	Male.	Female.	Total.
(a) All causes	45	74	119
Rate per 1,000 Population			14.62
Rate per 1,000 Population (England & Wales)			11.5
(b) Maternal Mortality :-			
(i) Deaths from Puerperal Sepsis			Nil
(ii) Deaths from other Puerperal Causes			Nil
(iii) Rate per 1,000 Births			Nil
(c) Infant Mortality (Deaths under one year) :-			
(i) Legitimate	4	3	7
(ii) Illegitimate	Nil	Nil	Nil
(iii) Rate per 1,000 Live Births			- 47.00
(iv) Rate per 1,000 Live Births (England & Wales)			- 43.00
(v) Rate per 1,000 Legitimate Infant Mortality-			51.09
(vi) Rate per 1,000 Illegitimate Infant Mortality-			Nil.

The death of 7 Infants under 1 year of age was reported during the year and of these 4 were due to prematurity, 2 to Atelectasis and 1 to Broncho-pneumonia.

(d) Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	16.
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	Nil

(e) Causes of Death :-

	Male.	Female.	Total.
1. Typhoid & Paratyphoid Fever	-	-	-
2. Cerebro Spinal Fever	-	-	-
3. Scarlet Fever	-	-	-
4. Whooping Cough	-	-	-
5. Diphtheria	-	-	-
6. Tuberculosis (Respiratory System)	1	3	4
7. Tuberculosis (Other forms)	3	1	4
8. Syphilis	-	-	-
9. Influenza	-	2	2
10. Measles	-	-	-
11. Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-
12. Acute Infantile Encephalitis	-	-	-
13. Cancer (Buccal Cavity & Oesophagus)	-	-	-
14. Cancer (Stomach)	-	2	2
15. Cancer (Breast)	-	3	3
16. Cancer (all other sites)	6	5	11
17. Diabetes	-	-	-
18. Intra Cranial Vascular Lesions	2	12	14
19. Heart Disease	18	21	39
20. Other diseases of Circulatory System	5	8	13
21. Bronchitis	1	4	5
22. Pneumonia	-	6	6
23. Other Respiratory Diseases	-	-	-
24. Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	-	-	-
25. Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	-	-	-
26. Appendicitis	-	-	-
27. Other Digestive Diseases	-	-	-
28. Nephritis	-	-	-
29. Puerperal or Post Abortion Sepsis	-	-	-
30. Other Maternal Causes	-	-	-
31. Premature Birth	-	-	-
32. Congenital Malformations	-	-	-
Birth Injury & Infant Diseases	-	-	-
33. Suicide	1	1	2
34. Road Traffic Accidents	-	2	2
35. Other Violent Causes	-	-	-
36. All other Causes	4	1	5

Mortality was greatest in the highest age groups.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES :-

The total number of Notifications during the year was 79. Whooping Cough & Scarlet Fever accounted for 50 and 14 notifications respectively. There were only 3 notifications for Pulmonary Tuberculosis and 5 for Tuberculosis other than Pulmonary. No case of Diphtheria was reported during the year and only one case of Ophthalmia Neonatorum. There were 2 cases of Puerperal Pyrexia. A total of 65 cases of Scabies were treated at the Isolation Hospital, Alton, during the year.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION :-

A total of 134 Immunisations were carried out during the year of which 101 were primary and 33 re-enforcing or "Booster" inoculations. There were no cases of Diphtheria during the year.

WELFARE - LICE INFESTATION :-

Lice Infestation in this town, especially amongst school children, is a serious consideration. Progress in the past has been slow and this can very largely be accounted for by the

complete lack of vigilance and indifference on the part of certain parents in the matter of re-infections. Towards the latter part of the year, serious consideration was given to this question by the County Authorities. A Cleansing Station was opened and a cleanser appointed. School children found to be verminous are directed to attend the cleansing centre. During the last quarter of the year a total of 59 children were brought under treatment and 122 Statutory Notices issued. It is hoped that matters will now improve. Much of the re-infestations are probably contracted at school by children infested and due largely to neglect and indifference on the part of the parents. Legal action against the worst offenders may have to be taken in due course.

WATER SUPPLY :-

The supply from the town's own works is sufficient for all requirements and no restriction of supplies has been necessary

The water is hard but pure and has no plumbo solvent action. All water is chlorinated at the source and a constant supply maintained. Alton and Holybourne have a piped supply to the majority of the houses. A few outlying farms and cottages are dependent on wells and rain water. A scheme for the link up of the 3" water mains at Wilsom Road and Windmill Lane together with a new 6" main from the Water Works to link up with the Holybourne main at Anstey has been approved and tenders obtained. It is proposed to commence work early next year.

Beech, however, has no piped supply, but a scheme has been prepared and received the approval of the Council. The scheme will be submitted to the Ministry of Health for their approval as soon as the District Valuer's report regarding the site for the "Booster" Station has been decided.

Chemical and Bacteriological analyses of water is undertaken regularly and the results have been consistantly satisfactory. There are no water standpipes in the town.

DRAINAGE & SEWERAGE :-

The Thames Conservancy Board have taken samples of effluent from the Disposal Works at various times and have also commenced cleaning and deepening the course of the River Wey.

The Sewage Works, though heavily overloaded, produces a fair effluent. After heavy rain, excess sewage has, however, to be treated on the land. Extension of the works is imperative. A scheme for additional tankage etc. has been submitted to the Ministry of Health for approval, who have suspended their decision pending the submission of an amended scheme to cover alteration to the present sewage works whereby the Alternate Double Filtration process can be introduced.

RODENT CONTROL :-

Visits & Inspections -

(a)	Survey	1376.
(b)	Extermination	200.
Complaints re-infections		22.

Premises treated by :-

(a) Council

(1) Council property by	(i)	Gassing	Nil.
	(ii)	Poison	7.

(2) Private property by	(i)	Gassing	Nil.
	(ii)	Poison	70.

(b) Owners under supervision by poison	123.
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(c) Premises treated by Ministry of Food	-
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DISINFECTIONS :-

Under instructions received, 14 disinfections have been carried out on various properties after Cerebro-Spinal Fever (1) Scarlet Fever (11) and Pulmonary Tuberculosis (2).

In all cases bedding was steam disinfected.

HOUSING :-

The Council have decided to construct :-

(i)	(a)	Permanent Houses	-	168.
	(b)	Temporary	-	45.

(11) In course of construction

(a)	Permanent	-	86.
(b)	Temporary	-	27.

(111) New houses completed during the year - 2.

(1) INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES.

(i)a.	Total number of houses inspected	-	44.
	b. Number of Inspections made	-	44.

(ii) a. Number of dwelling houses inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations Nil.

(ii) b. Number of Inspections made Nil.

(iii) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation Nil.

(iv) Number of dwelling houses found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for habitation 44.

(11) Number of defective Dwelling Houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers 35.

(111) Proceedings under Section 9, 10 & 16 of the Housing Act 1936.

Number of dwelling houses rendered fit after service of formal notices :-

(a)	by owners	6.
(b)	by Council in default of owners	3.

Proceedings under Public Health Acts :-

a.	Under Sections 11 & 13 of Housing Act 1936	Nil.
b.	Under Section 12 of the Housing Act 1936	Nil.
c.	Under Part iv of Housing Act 1936	Nil.

During the year 176 re-inspections of works and repairs to houses were made.

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GENERAL INSPECTIONS & SUPERVISION OF FOOD :-

1. MILK :-

Regular inspections of cowsheds and dairies are carried out and totalled 37 during the year.

- | | |
|--|--------------------|
| a. Number of retail purveyors of milk | 20. |
| b. Number of wholesale dealers & cow keepers | 20. |
| c. Number of cows kept | 533 approximately. |
| d. Number of licenced producers of "T.T." Milk | 2. |
| e. Number of producers of Accredited Milk | 1. |

11. MEAT :-

The Ministry of Food has two slaughter-houses in the town. These are regularly visited and condemnation certificates issued where meat is found to be unfit for human consumption. During the year 154 inspections were carried out mainly during slaughtering hours. The following were condemned and destroyed :-

- | | |
|---|------|
| a. For all diseases other than Tuberculosis | |
| i. Whole carcasses | 3 |
| ii. Parts of carcasses & organs | 278 |
| b. For Tuberculosis only | |
| i. Whole carcasses | 13. |
| ii. Parts of carcasses & organs | 196. |

The total weight of meat condemned during the year was 17790 lbs.

111. OTHER FOODS :-

A close watch is kept upon all food in shops and any found unfit is condemned and destroyed. The following were destroyed :-

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| i. Corned Beef | 82 tins (489 lbs.) |
| ii. Cooked Meat | 6 " |
| iii. Vegetables | 27 " |
| iv. Evaporated Milk | 66 " |
| v. Fish | 21 " |
| vi. Fish | 282 " |
| vii. Butter | 11 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs. |
| viii. Soup | 13 tins |
| ix. Cheese | 117 lbs. |

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES :-

The Hampshire County Council has officers discharging duties in the area. These include the Assistant County Medical Officer, Dental Surgeon, Inspector of Food & Drugs & Health Visitors.

a. Laboratory Facilities :-

The Hampshire County Council provides all facilities for Chemical & Bacteriological analyses of clinical material, water, milk and food stuffs.

b. Ambulance Facilities :-

One ambulance is maintained both for infectious cases and accidents. The ambulance is immediately disinfected after carrying every infectious case.

c. Nursing in the Home :-

Both a District Nurse and a District Midwife are employed in the area.

d. Clinics & Treatment Centres :-

i. Child Welfare Clinic, held at the Assembly Rooms every Tuesday afternoon during the month.

ii. Anti-natal clinic held in the out-patient department of the Cottage Hospital on the first four Thursday afternoons in each month.

iii. Orthopaedic Clinics. A Major or Surgeons Clinic is held every alternate month in the afternoon at the Lord Mayor Treloar Home for Cripples, Alton. A minor Clinic is held every Saturday morning at the same place.

iv. Hospitals -

a. The Inwood Cottage Hospital contains 31 beds including 4 private and 7 cots maintained on a voluntary basis for medical, surgical and maternity cases.

b. Isolation or Infectious Diseases Hospital, Alton, which is under the joint control of a Hospital Committee, consisting of members of both the Alton Rural District and Alton Urban District Councils. All cases of scabies are also treated at this hospital.

c. Special Hospitals.

The Hampshire County Council have arrangements whereby maternity, orthopaedic, puerperal fever, ophthalmia neonatorum cases etc. can be admitted to hospitals ~~outside~~ the Alton Urban Area.

A smallpox hospital in the neighbourhood of Winchester is maintained by the Hampshire County Council and which is available for patients should the necessity arise.

d. Sanatoria.

Sanatoria for the reception of patients suffering from Tuberculosis are maintained at Bishopstoke and Chandlers Ford by the Hampshire County Council.

e. Maternity & Nursing Homes.

There are two maternity and nursing homes in the area maintained by private enterprise at Holybourne and Four Marks. These are registered and inspected by the County Authority.

f. Infant Life Protection.

The Hampshire County Council arranges for the regular inspection of boarded out children and the submission of necessary return of new cases.

